

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /088 W  
----- 035774

R 151219Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 796

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 010

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTIONS TO SECSTATE REES COMMONS STATEMENT

1. ALL SECTIONS LOYALIST POLITICAL PERSUASIONS NORTHERN IRELAND REACTING UP TO NOW HAVE EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF APPROVAL FOR SECRETARY OF STATE REES' COMMONS STATEMENT OF JAN. 14. OFFICIAL UNIONIST JOHN TAYLOR AND UNIONIST PARTY FOUNDER BRIAN FAULKNER IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW PRAISED REES STRATEGY AS DID ALLIANCE PARTY CHAIRMAN OLIVER NAPIER. "BALANCED" WAS MOST FREQUENTLY USED DESCRIPTIVE TERM FOR STATEMENT. MILITANTLY LOYALIST (OR PROTESTANT) MORNING NEWS LETTER LEADER JAN. 15 INCLUDED FOLLOWING PAGRAPH. "IN THE LIGHT OF PRESSURES FROM SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC IN BRITAIN FOR ANY ACCOMODATION THAT WOULD BRING AN END TO THE BOMBING THERE, MR. REES HAS HELD HIS GROUND INA SPIRIT OF COURAGE AND REALISM. HE, MORE THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS, WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE GRASPED THE GREATER DANGERS THAT COULD SO WELL BE INHERENT IN SOME EASIER COURSE."

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) LEADERS GERRY FITT AND JOHN HUME NOT RPT NOT CRITICAL OF STATEMENT BUT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THERE NO RPT NO MORE CONCRETE  
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INDICATION OF IMMEDIATE PHASE DOWN AND EVENTUAL END TO

INTERNMENT. THERE ALSO OBVIOUSLY SOME POTENTIAL DISCOMFITURE FOR SDLP IN REES STATEMENT THAT ALL PARTS PROVINCE WOULD BE POLICIED AS ARMY RELINQUISHED ROLE. BOTH FAULKNER AND UNIONIST M.P. JAMES MOLYNEAUX IN SEPARATE TELEVISION INTERVIEWS INDICATED SDLP REFUSAL VOICE SUPPORT FOR ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY WILL INCREASINGLY BE POLITICAL ISSUE.

3. ONLY PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN VOICED HOSTILITY TO REES STATEMENT. VP MAIRE DRUMM FOUND IT AN INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE PROVISIONAL IRA. SHE OBVIOUSLY BOTHERED AT REFUSAL HMG INITIATE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVOS OR UTILIZE SINN FEIN PERSONNEL AS "INTERMEDIARIES."

4. MOST NEWS MEDIA PREDICT IRA WILL PROLONG CEASEFIRE FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS ALTHOUGH NONE CLAIM BE AWARE PROVISIONALS INTENTIONS OR DECISION. IT ALSO CONSENSUS THERE WILL BE RELEASE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER INTERNEES IN NEAR FUTURE. SPICER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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